

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
AND SHEILA KUEHL

MARCH 31, 2020

**Advocating for In-Home Supportive Services Providers During COVID-19 Crisis**

The State of California (State) is home to more than 400,000 In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) providers who are long-term care workers delivering personal and paramedical services in intimate settings without the benefits or resources of a healthcare facility. They are on the frontlines, caring for clients who are at high risk for experiencing the most adverse effects of COVID-19, should they contract the virus. Such clients include the elderly and those living with disabilities and underlying conditions such as weakened immune systems, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), heart disease, and diabetes.

Many IHSS providers are working in near isolation for low wages with limits on overtime hours, and minimal paid sick leave or health benefits. They face physically and emotionally demanding jobs and, because they are not regarded as first responders, the dissemination of personal protective equipment varies from county to county. An outbreak of COVID-19 in the long-term care community could lead to catastrophic consequences, such as an expedited spread of the virus, a flooding of patients into hospital intensive care units, and an increase in fatalities among Los Angeles County's (County) most vulnerable populations.

The Personal Assistance Services Council (PASC) is the employer-of-record for IHSS providers for collective bargaining and also provides additional services, which

HOA.102830745.1

**MOTION**

SOLIS	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____
KUEHL	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND SHEILA KUEHL**  
**MARCH 31, 2020**  
**PAGE 2**

assist IHSS recipients and providers. The State of California implements the IHSS program through regulations promulgated by the California Department of Social Services. While the County is not the employer of IHSS providers, their safety, as well as the safety of the vulnerable population they care for in the County, is of paramount concern.

**WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** direct the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Department of Public Social Services, PASC, Service Employees International Union, Local 2015 (SEIU-2015, the union that represents IHSS providers), and the Department of Public Health to report back, in writing, within 14 days on:

- I. Unique measures the County has taken to support IHSS providers in preparation for and during the COVID-19 crisis, including, but not limited to the creation and maintenance of the backup attendant program which ensures that clients receive services even if their providers are not available;
- II. Recent measures the State has taken to support IHSS providers; and
- III. The feasibility of advocating for the following State guidelines for IHSS providers for the duration of the period that Governor Newsom's declaration of a State of Emergency is in effect:
  - a. Ensure IHSS providers who are not quarantined with their patients have sufficient protective supplies such as masks, gloves, gowns, and disinfectants;
  - b. Authorize and compensate IHSS providers for any needed work hours in addition to their regular schedule in response to COVID-19;
  - c. Provide the necessary number of paid sick leave hours to IHSS providers to allow them to quarantine when sick, in accordance with State Department of Public Health guidelines for caregivers;
  - d. Provide IHSS providers with access to online training on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on COVID-19, including plans for

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND SHEILA KUEHL**  
**MARCH 31, 2020**  
**PAGE 3**

preparing for infection control procedures, and proper use of Personal Protective Equipment;

- e. Consider compensating IHSS providers for conducting extra check-ins on individuals receiving homecare to ensure their safety;
- f. Provide low or no-cost COVID-19 screenings for IHSS providers and clients who exhibit symptoms, pursuant to the availability of reliable screenings, and conduct outreach to long-term care providers and recipients on screening locations and processes;
- g. Make COVID-19 instructions and information accessible and available in multiple languages;
- h. Expand eligibility for Unemployment Insurance to include domestic partner, spouse, adult child, and parent IHSS providers who are left without an income if their consumer is hospitalized; and
- i. Fund the cost of criminal background checks for IHSS providers and expedite the enrollment of new providers.

# # #

(ECW)

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND SHEILA KUEHL  
MARCH 31, 2020  
PAGE 4**

**Advocating for In-Home Support Services Workers During COVID-19 Outbreak  
- Categories Page**

CATEGORIES: (Please check ☒ those that apply)

- ☐ 1. Child Welfare
- ☐ 2. Community and Youth Empowerment
- ☐ 3. County Services
- ☐ 4. Economic Justice
- ☒ 5. Economic and Workforce Development
- ☐ 6. Education
- ☐ 7. Environment
- ☐ 8. Fiscal
- ☒ 9. Governance
- ☒ 10. Health
- ☐ 11. Homelessness
- ☐ 12. Immigration
- ☐ 13. Public Safety
- ☐ 14. Social Justice and Human Rights
- ☐ 15. Technology and Data
- ☐ 16. Arts, Culture, and the Creative Economy
- ☒ 17. Legislation
- ☐ 18. Parks and Open Space
- ☐ 19. Planning/Land Use
- ☐ 20. Transportation
- ☐ 21. Veterans